

The Library Assistant :

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Third Meeting of the Session will be held at the **Central Library for Students**, 20, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Wednesday, **10th December, at 7.30 p.m.** For the purpose of making a small amendment to the Rules of the Association, the meeting will be considered a Special General Meeting, and the following resolution will be moved :—

Rule 3: Members (a). The Association shall consist of Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, Student Members, and Associates. Student Members: All persons duly registered as students at any recognised School of Librarianship.

Rule 4 (a). The Annual Subscription shall be . . . 5/- for Members and Student Members.

In consequence of the resignation from the Council of Miss Fairweather, a vacancy occurs on the London side, which will be filled at this Meeting; nominations must reach the Honorary Secretary, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, E. 14, not later than December 8th.

The principal business of the evening will be **an address by Mr. Councillor Arthur Peters, C.B.E., J.P.**, of Croydon, entitled—"The Public Library Movement, with special reference to the recent report on Public Libraries and Museums, from the Labour point of view." Such an address could not be more opportune, and it is hoped that the size of the meeting will be worthy of the occasion.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

Prize Scheme, 1919-1920.

The Committee have pleasure in announcing that Mr. Henry D. Roberts, M.B.E., has again placed the sum of One Guinea at their disposal. It has been decided that a prize of half-a-guinea shall be awarded to the Senior who submits the best essay on "My idea of a good Junior Assistant." A prize of

half-a-guinea will also be awarded to the Junior who submits the best essay on "My idea of a good Senior Assistant."

The competition is open to all members of the Branch. Essays should not exceed 3,000 words in length, and, if possible, be typewritten. Each competitor must adopt a pseudonym, which should appear at the head of the essay; the name and address of the competitor, together with the pseudonym adopted, being placed in a sealed envelope, which will not be opened until the essays have been judged. Essays must be delivered to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch, Arthur Webb, Public Library, Brighton, *not later* than 15th March, 1920.

To New Members.—It is our pleasure to print a fairly long list of new members, and we therefore take this opportunity of welcoming them into our ranks. It is distinctly encouraging to see our younger colleagues joining up in this way, and we hope sincerely that they will become better fitted for their work as a result of their membership. The L.A.A. is essentially a young people's Association, a fact that should be fully realised. Any suggestions that our young friends may have for the better organization of the Association will be cordially welcomed by the Council. We also hope that those who still remain outside will speedily join forces with us. From the purely selfish point of view, it really does pay to belong to the L.A.A. Personally, we owe everything to it, and an examination of recent appointments will show that in most cases the successful candidate has been prominently identified with the L.A.A. While not suggesting that success has been attained because he or she happened to be so identified, we think that the fact has contributed to the success in no small measure. The suggestion has been made that juniors have been rather left out in the cold lately. If this is so, it has been done quite unintentionally, and may perhaps have been due to a certain amount of indifference on their part. When we publish in our next issue the programme of meetings for the ensuing session, we think it will be found that the junior has been well catered for.

The L.A.A. Library.—Enriched by Mr. Lange's recent gift, the Association's Library is now a collection of which members may be proud. Mrs. Hazard, of the Islington Libraries' staff, has kindly undertaken the duties of Honorary Librarian, and is now engaged in classifying and re-arranging the books. Members requiring the loan of a volume should address an application to Mrs. Hazard, enclosing the necessary stamps for postage. There are duplicate copies available of nearly all the principal text-books and long runs of most of the leading

professional journals. A new catalogue is a desideratum, but this is not likely to be forthcoming for some time owing to the expense. Members, however, may confidently apply for almost any ordinary work dealing with various phases of librarianship and bibliography, for they are not likely often to be disappointed. The address is Mrs. Hazard, Central Public Library, 68, Holloway Road, London, N. 7.

Aids to Students.—Students at the School of Librarianship and others may like to know that the Association has published several useful pamphlets on important phases of librarianship. The pamphlets are known as *The L.A.A. Series*, and any of the following may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, E. 14, at sevenpence each, post free. The Grammar of Classification, by W. C. Berwick Sayers; Libraries in Rural Districts, by Harry Farr; Ideals: Old and New: An Address to Young Librarians, by E. Wyndham Hulme, B.A.; The Library Committee: Its Character and Work, by W. C. Berwick Sayers; First Steps in Library Routine, by William Benson Thorne; First Steps in Library Cataloguing, by William Benson Thorne; First Steps in Annotation in Catalogues, by W. C. Berwick Sayers.

The Hammersmith Appointment.—We wish to record our disapproval of the procedure adopted in connection with the recent appointment of a chief librarian at Hammersmith. The committee selected five candidates for interview, which number was then reduced to three, who appeared before the Council. Instead of appointing one of these, however, the very unusual course was adopted of summoning a fourth candidate, who, in the end, was appointed.

The New Libraries Bill.—As we go to press the news reaches us that a Libraries Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on Friday, the 28th ult. The Bill removes the present rate limitation, and enables County Councils to establish public libraries. It also enables County Councils and County Borough Councils to delegate the control of their public libraries to the Education Authorities. For the purpose of higher education, local education authorities are also given power to acquire land compulsorily for public library purposes. No existing library area is interfered with, and any library at present in existence may be carried on as heretofore. We have not yet had an opportunity of examining the text of the Bill, but it appears to be framed in such a manner as will give satisfaction to everyone interested. We hope sincerely that it may soon become law.

The End of the Volume.—With the next number will be issued the title-page and index to volume 14 of *The Library Assistant*, covering the years 1917-19. The Honorary Editor takes this opportunity of wishing all members and friends of the Association a very happy Christmas.

Council Changes.—Consequent upon his appointment to the chief librarianship of Newport (Mon.), Mr. John Warner (deputy librarian, Croydon) has resigned his position as a non-London councillor of the Association. The best wishes of all members go with Mr. Warner to his new sphere, and we shall long remember his work and interest on the Association's behalf, especially in connection with the Fourth International Easter School, of which he was the Honorary Treasurer. The vacancy so caused has been filled by the election of Mr. J. E. Walker, deputy librarian, Tottenham. We welcome Mr. Walker's return to the Council, as we know him to be a man who is prepared to take an active part in the Association's work; he has already served us as Honorary Editor for a short time. We also extend a cordial welcome to Mr. Luxmoore Newcombe, sub-librarian of University College, London, and assistant director of the School of Librarianship. Mr. Newcombe has for long been keenly interested in the welfare of assistants, and his position and personality are such as to make him a valuable acquisition to the the Council. We regret to record the resignation, through temporary disablement, of Miss Lilian Fairweather. The best wishes of all her colleagues go out to her, and we sincerely hope that with rest and change a complete recovery may soon be brought about.

The Distribution of this Journal.—If it is so desired, the Council is prepared to revert to the pre-war custom of posting *The Library Assistant* direct to members, instead of in batches addressed to a voluntary distributor. With the renewed activity of the Branches it is desirable that the Journal shall be in the hands of members at the earliest moment after publication. At the same time, it may be pointed out that distribution *en bloc* saves a certain amount of expense and labour, but if any member feels that he is not receiving his Journal as early as he would like, it will gladly be sent to him direct upon our learning his wishes. May we take this opportunity of thanking those who have assisted the Council in this matter, and of suggesting that where the present system is continued, the Journals shall be placed in the hands of individual members with as little delay as possible.

PROCEEDINGS.

The November General Meeting was held in the Mocatta Library, University College, on the 12th ult., and took the form of a conference on the relations between the public library and the elementary school. The Chair was occupied by Dr. Chambers, librarian of University College, and the Conference was opened by Mrs. Frayer, head mistress of the Bromley Hall Road L.C.C. School, Poplar, and Mr. Rand, head master of the Marner Street L.C.C. School, Bromley-by-Bow.

The vacancy on the non-London side of the Council caused through the resignation of Mr. Warner, was filled by the election of Mr. J. E. Walker, deputy librarian of the Tottenham Public Libraries.

Mrs. Frayer was of opinion that teachers could widen their sphere of influence by forming in the child the library habit. It was necessary to teach children to *want* books. With this end in view the speaker approached the librarian of the Bromley library some years ago with a request that classes for private study might be held in the library. Such classes were held twice a week and were greatly appreciated by the scholars attending. The books were not only available at the library, but also at the school, the librarian lending them to the teacher for lesson preparation previous to these educational visits. For the child from the average working class home, Mrs. Frayer suggested this form of private study as a valuable means towards a fuller life. She also suggested that there should be at the library a professional storyteller who should tell (not read) stories to the children. By this means books which did not usually appeal to children would be made familiar and attractive. The committee should include a cinema manager, who would thus learn what educationalists desired for the children under their charge, and seeing that they appreciated high class literature, he might be induced to picture such stories at his theatre. She also referred to the necessity for training the tastes of the future citizens in matters of art; this again could be done by means of definite lessons on appropriate subjects.

The end of all these things should be the bringing of the child into direct contact with the book and picture. Books, and, if possible, pictures should be available for home use at the conclusion of every lesson. Lastly, there should be close co-operation in collecting facts concerning local history with a view to making scholars acquainted with local tradition and history.

Mr. Rand said that he proposed to confine his remarks more particularly to the relation of the Public Library to the Public Elementary School. He regarded the drawbacks to the development of the library movement as twofold: (1) financial

limitations; (2) local apathy. The product of the penny rate was quite inadequate, and in places where the library was giving effective educational facilities he would substitute a government grant. In order to overcome local apathy, the library should be made a compelling attraction. Every one should include a juvenile department, with lectures and demonstrations for scholars as well as adults. Local history and industry should receive special consideration. In view of the fact that the child of to-day must become the ruler of to-morrow, he urged an attempt to secure the support of the children. With a view to doing something in this direction, teachers should be represented on every library committee. He did not agree with the absorption of the Public Library by the educational authority. Educational officers had already quite enough to do. If there was to be a coalescing of library and education authorities, we should see that with that union there should be a representative librarian appointed in a superintendent or consultant capacity. If County Councils were to control libraries, they should appoint a chief county librarian to co-ordinate and co-operate with the Education Office.

Mr. Rand summed up his remarks by making seven practical suggestions:—(1) That representative teachers should be co-opted on to every library committee; (2) Definite times should be fixed at which children should be able to obtain their books; (3) Juvenile reading rooms, complete with small reference collections, should be provided wherever these did not already exist; (4) Books dealing with history of the locality and with local industries should be freely provided; (5) The penny rate limitation should be removed and substituted by a government grant based upon proved value to the community; (6) Interesting lectures should be inaugurated, illustrated when necessary by lantern slides; (7) There should be educated in the student a reverential regard for the historical interests around him.

Among those contributing to the subsequent discussion were Messrs. Purnell (Adelaide, S. Australia), Quinn (Chelsea), Cawthorne (Stepney) and Sayers (Croydon). All these speakers have had considerable experience in children's work, and their remarks were much appreciated.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

A Meeting of the Branch was held at the Mayer Free Library, Bebington, on Wednesday, October 22nd, 1919. Members arriving in the afternoon were taken by Mr. Harding through Messrs. Lever Bros.' Soap Works. The wonderful things we saw and the fine administration of the works left a great and lasting impression on the members. Through the generosity of the Managers of the Mayer Trust, tea was provided in the Free Library.

In formally welcoming the Branch to Bebington, Mr. Harding expressed his interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of Librarians and he was

much impressed with the good work done by the Branch. The President, Mr. James Ross, F.L.A., was supported by a good attendance: members being present from Bolton, Preston, Manchester, Liverpool, Bebington, Birkenhead, Wallasey, etc. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the following resolution to the Hon. Secretary of the L.A.

"That the Library Association be asked to reconsider their position with regard to the present education scheme of the London University College as far as it affects Library Assistants at present holding the Diploma or Sectional Certificates of the Library Association. This Branch views with grave misgivings the possible award of any alternative Diploma or Certificates (especially to students who might have no practical experience of Library work) which might thereby depreciate the value of the Library Association Diploma and Certificates."

The members were pleased to hear of their President's success in securing a good position in the South, but much regretted that it would mean his severance from the Branch. It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Ross's valuable services to the Branch since its inception should be placed on record. Messrs. Hindle, Fostall, and Helliwell paid tribute to Mr. Ross's splendid work for the Branch, and Mr. Ross suitably responded. It was resolved that Mr. Hindle be elected President and Mr. W. G. Fry, vice-chairman, and that the vacancy on the Committee be left over until the next Meeting. Mr. Ross delivered an admirable Presidential Address which may be read in the next issue of the "Assistant."

A hearty vote of thanks being given to Messrs. Lever Bros., Mr., Mrs. and Miss Harding, and to the Managers of the Mayer Trustees, one of the most instructive and enjoyable Meetings the Branch has ever had came to a close.

R. G. W.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The Inaugural Meeting of the South Coast Branch was held at the Brighton Public Library on Wednesday, 15th October, when representatives from Brighton, Hove, Worthing, and Portsmouth were present. The principal item in the proceedings was an extremely interesting lantern lecture by Mr. Henry D. Roberts, M.B.E., Director, Brighton, on "The story of the Book". The lecture was ably presided over by Alderman Sir John Otter. Mr. Roberts, in a fascinating manner, traced the history of the written and printed record from the drawings and hieroglyphics of primeval man on bone, flint, etc., to the writings on papyrus and parchment, on to the invention of typography, and thence to the productions of William Morris. Both Mr. Roberts and the Chairman were cordially thanked at the close.

Previous to this meeting, the members had been entertained to tea by the Brighton Staff, and were glad to welcome Mr. Ernest Male, Sub-Librarian, Brighton, after an absence of four and an half years in the Army, in which he attained the rank of Sergeant in the R.G.A., and was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Good Work on Active Service.

OBITUARY

We received the sad news that Miss P. E. Talmey, an assistant in the Hove Public Library, died on 26th October, of meningitis, at the early age of 17 years. Miss Talmey had been on the Hove staff for two and a half years, passed the Preliminary Examination of the Library Association last year, and was a very promising assistant. Representatives of the Branch attended the funeral, and a wreath was sent as a mark of sympathy with the relatives and a token of the esteem in which she was held by her colleagues on the South Coast.

APPOINTMENTS.

*Mr. G. R. AXON, a principal assistant in the Reference Library, Manchester, to be Librarian, Rusholme Branch, Manchester.

*Mr. H. M. CASHMORE, deputy librarian, Birmingham, and vice-president of the L.A.A., has been elected president of the Birmingham and District L.A.

*Mr. A. J. HAWORTH, F.L.A., assistant, Fulham Public Libraries, to be senior assistant, Liverpool University Library.

*JAMES ROSS, of Liverpool, to be deputy librarian, Bristol.

HENRY WHITEHEAD, a principal assistant in the Reference Library, Manchester, to be Librarian, Moss Side Branch, Manchester.

* Member, L.A.A.

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Catalogue of the Birmingham Collection: including printed books and pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, views, portraits, etc. Ed. by Walter Powell and H. M. Cashmore. 16 + 1,132 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. 1918. 25s. 0d. net.

As a contribution to local bibliography this volume is of infinite value; as an example of a catalogue of a local collection it is the finest specimen we have yet seen. Unfortunately we are prevented, through pressure on our space, from giving it the notice that it deserves. It is rightly described in the preface as the nearest approach to a bibliography of Birmingham that has ever been issued. The main body of the work is divided into three parts: (1) general; (2) books printed in Birmingham, but not otherwise relating to Birmingham; (3) books published in Birmingham, but not otherwise relating to Birmingham. The dictionary plan of arrangement has been followed, books being entered under their authors, and also under their subjects if these are of local interest. A feature of the catalogue is the large number of analytical entries for articles of local interest, while a pleasing detail is the recognition by the chief librarian of the services rendered by the staff in its production, especially by our vice-president, Mr. H. M. Cashmore, of whose services "it is impossible to speak too highly."

NEW MEMBERS.

Fellows: Walter A. BRISCOE, Chief Librarian, Nottingham.

Members: F. BARLOW, Watford; Wm. HOLT-JACKSON, Twickenham; Arthur H. JENN, Lambeth; L. R. MCCOLVIN, Croydon; Percy ROCHE, Chemical Society.

Associates: Misses E. M. E. BALES, E. M. GOUGH, and M. PRESTON, Croydon; Miss E. HOUGHTON, Stoke Newington; Thos. MUSKETT, Gainsborough.

North Western Branch.—Members: Miss A. BACKHOUSE, Blackburn; Ernest OKELL and Wilfred SMITH, Bolton; **Associates:** Misses EMSLEY, WRIGHT and WRIGLEY, Manchester; Miss PRIOR, Darwen; H. BETHELL, J. H. GOLDTHORPE, H. MARSLAND, Manchester; F. BAKER, Wallasey; Mr. Reginald HOWARTH, Bolton.

South Coast Branch.—Associates: Misses BRADFORD, CLARKE, and LINFIELD, Brighton; Misses BALLINGER and PURDUE, Hove; Misses BLAKE and KING, Worthing.

Yorkshire Branch.—Associates: Miss E. COOPER, Leeds; Misses E. BRUCE and WALKER, Huddersfield.

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